

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

PROACTIVE Project Ethics Officer Approval Reference: PROACTIVE/PEO 10/27/04/2021

Background and aims of the research activity

The goal of project PROACTIVE is to enhance societal CBRNe (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and explosive) preparedness by increasing first responder's ability to effectively manage large, diverse groups of people. This will be accomplished by fostering common approaches between European safety and security Practitioners, in particular Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and CBRNe First Responders. These are to be evaluated and validated against the needs and requirements of the civil society, especially considering vulnerable groups of citizens. These groups reflect the most important societal aspects, in line with the European Security Model (e.g. perception of security, possible side effects of technological solutions, gender- and age-related behaviour, and disabilities).

In that respect, the project PROACTIVE methodology is **consultation** with Practitioner-Stakeholders (e.g. Law Enforcement Agencies, CBRNe First Responders) and Citizens (through appropriate methods such as surveys, interviews and focus groups), followed by **detailed examination** of selected tools and procedures and the subsequent provision of **three field exercises** to evaluate their effectiveness via an effective, realistic, legal and ethical research platform.

This study is funded by the project no 832981 PROACTIVE (project funded by the European Commission).

Why is this research being conducted?

As part of the project PROACTIVE, German Police University is conducting a survey among CBRNe practitioners such as law enforcement agencies and first responders (e.g. fire brigades, health services, civil protection) in numerous European countries and beyond. This survey will broaden the study sample of a quantitative study carried out by DHPol between May and July 2020. The survey will touch upon key tasks and phases of CBRNe preparedness and response and will look at procedures and resources / equipment. Special emphasis will be put on consideration of vulnerable citizens in preparedness for and response to incidents. The survey will analyze commonalities and differences in preparing for and responding to CBRNe incidents. It will provide an up-to-date picture of the state of CBRNe preparation and readiness to respond across European countries and beyond.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited because you work in one of the above-mentioned fields. Even if you have no or little experience with CBRNe incidents, your information will be of great interest. In the following we will describe the criteria for participation in the survey:

- You work as either Law Enforcement Agent (LEA) or First Responder.
 - The survey focuses on LEAs with management responsibility.
 - The term fire fighter refers to volunteer and professional practitioners. The survey focuses on fire fighters with management responsibility.

- Health professionals primarily refer to first responders and their management and training level. This includes paramedics, emergency physicians and doctors in the outpatient emergency department, as well as their nurses, psychological first-aiders, trainers and comparable emergency personnel. The survey focuses on health professionals in leading positions. This includes for example leading emergency physicians and chiefs of emergency response on site and the like. Additionally, CBRNe response and prevention instructors and certified rescue service training center instructors will be considered.
- First Responders include members active in civil protection agencies like the German Technical Relief Agency (THW) or emergency psychosocial services like Crisis Intervention Teams.
- Sectors that are not involved in emergency situations are not taken into account. These include, e.g. nursing care for the elderly, rehabilitation, GP surgeries etc.

Do I have to take part?

No. You can ask questions about the research before deciding whether or not to take part. If you do agree to take part, you may withdraw yourself from the survey at any time during the completion of the survey without giving a reason.

What will happen to me if I take part in the research?

If you are happy to take part in the research, you will be asked to complete the online questionnaire, which initially contains general questions. In the further parts of the survey, participants are asked about CBRNe experiences, CBRNe preparedness measures and CBRNe response measures.

The survey should take a maximum of 15 minutes. The deadline for participation is the **28th of June, 2021**.

If you are still happy to take part, we will ask you to sign a consent form.

Are there any potential risks in taking part?

As in other research projects, there is a risk - however small - of data being lost or stolen. To reduce possible risks, we will not collect any personal data in the questionnaire. The data is anonymous data. The research team at German Police University has access to the data. The research team's computers are protected by a firewall and secure passwords. To minimize the risk of data loss, regular backups of the data are made.

Are there any benefits in taking part?

By participating in the online survey, participants contribute to improving knowledge about CBRNe experiences, CBRNe preparedness measures and CBRNe response measures in their countries. This knowledge can be used to identify areas where there is potential for improvement.

What happens to the data provided?

The information you provide during the study is the research data. The data is used only for scientific purposes. The data will be used to prepare a report for the European Commission, which will provide an up-to-date picture of the state of CBRNe preparation and readiness to respond across European countries and beyond. Responsible members of the Project PROACTIVE may be given access to data for monitoring and/or audit of the research.

The research data (including consent forms) will be stored for 5/10 years after the finish date of the Project PROACTIVE. Within PROACTIVE, the personal data collected shall be anonymized or deleted at the latest 5 years after the end of the project for most partners, if it is not done so before. Furthermore, if personal data is included in dissemination activities, only anonymized data will be shared. However, as reflected in requirement D10.5, DHPol policy is to keep data for 10 years. Afterwards the data will also be deleted.

Will the research be published?

The research may be published in academic publications and on the PROACTIVE project website.

Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been received ethics clearance through the Project Ethics Officer of Project PROACTIVE: **PROACTIVE/PEO/ 10/27/04/2021**

Data Protection

No personal data will be collected or used for the research. Although Recital 26 of the GDPR clearly states that the obligations outlined in the GDPR do not apply to anonymous data, all data processed as part of the research will be processed securely.

Who do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact Danielle Carbon or Andreas Arnold (PROACTIVE_study@dhpol.de), the PROACTIVE PEO: Irina Marsh (irina.marsh@cbrneltd.com) or the Data Protection Officer of the German Police University: Dr. Kerstin Lüdke (kerstin.luedke@dhpol.de), and we will do our best to answer your query. We will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will be dealt with.

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